



DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION  
HEALTH CARE BULLETIN  
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Salmonella Outbreak

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Audience: All

Over the past month or so, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been investigating an outbreak of *Salmonella* related to peanut butter. There have been a number of reports related to the *Salmonella* outbreak on television and local newspapers. A recall of King Nut peanut butter was the first to be announced. This peanut butter and peanut paste was used as a product in other food items and provided in institutional size containers to nursing homes, schools and other large facilities and was not packaged for purchase from food markets. A number of food manufacturers have voluntarily recalled products with peanut butter or peanut paste as a precautionary measure. The link to the FDA provides a list of recalled items. This link is updated regularly and is a good source of information on the recalls that are happening.

*Salmonella* is the name of a group of bacteria. In the United States, it is the most common cause of foodborne illness. *Salmonella* typically occurs in raw poultry, eggs, beef, and sometimes on unwashed fruit and vegetables.

Symptoms include: fever, diarrhea, abdominal cramps and headache.

Symptoms usually last 4 - 7 days. Most people get better without treatment. It can be more serious in the elderly, infants and people with chronic conditions. If *Salmonella* gets into the bloodstream, it can be serious, or even life-threatening. The usual treatment is antibiotics.

The web link below will take you to the latest updates from the FDA related to this *Salmonella*, the *Salmonella* outbreak and information regarding the recall. You will also find information related to *Salmonella* at the FDA site as well as the second link provided from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html#update>

<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typhimurium/>

Additional information and resources:

National Institutes of Health

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/salmonellainfections.html>